B

R. File No. 54
1939

Collection No.

HJP
21.7.47
HC
23/7

(40)

Pros. / Serial Nos. 1-17-18

(81) P.

Subject.

Bangalore Sewage Disposal Scheme

Previous References.

192/37

Later References.

B7 35-3/40

A
23/10/46.

97.—(Green).

P—1663 S&P—(M-2971)—24-6-38—100,000.

Harvard Law Library
3507 B/N
desk
Blue
23 Turner

NOTES AND PRECIS.

Sewage scheme in C.&.M. Station and City - we must find out what is happening.

Sd/- H.T.
1-2-39.

S. N. 12 (R) 2

Please see S. N. 12/F. 192-37.

Draft submitted.

KIC 2.2.39

2.2.39

3/2/39.

S. N. (1) Issue

Secy.

Award 8/8/39

D.No.5076. S.N.(2).

R 3

Please see S.N.12 of File 192-37.

A

For orders whether we may write demi-officially to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore asking him to expedite matters, or whether we may wait for some time and ask P.M.C. to report what progress has been made.

22.5.39 A.

23/5/39

Secy.

4

Draft submitted.

25.5.39

26.5.

S.N. (3) : Issue

Award 1.7.39

8 Two drafts for approval.

2/8/39.

Resident.

1938

× S.N.6 (S) 9 A small paragraph has been added after telephone conversation with P.M.C. Resident may see after issue.

3/8/39.

S.N.(6) and (7) : Issue.

× (S) 10 Submitted. Please see S.N.6.

5.8.39

Resident.

11 Sir Maya is hereby my
chosen heir and the
duty is bestowed upon the
whole world so that he
can be excluded making
abhorrently he is led my
hand is known of the
experiments is organed by
the chemical method which

that it would be wise to
think to proceed with
success fully and to that therefore.
There is likely to be difficulty
arising from the answer to
Question 8 and that the State
will be willing to take over
any obligations which may
be incurred by the State in
providing they are kept informed
and formally consulted.
It will however remain the
Board whether the Authority
should not contribute towards
the scheme

PV 9/8.

12

Issue letter below.

9/8/39. (S)

Issued : S.N.(8)

Resident (attached). PV. 9/8

Rs.1,50,000/- for 'Chemical' method. The difference in the cost of the two methods is very great. The final recommendations of the Government of Mysore are still awaited. In the meantime the P.M.C. wishes to have the opinion and advice of the Superintending Engineer, Health Services, of the Government of India regarding the relative merits of the 'Simplex' and 'Chemical' processes of disposal of sewage.

Draft submitted.

P.u.c.
S N. 10

KK 13.9.39

14/9/39

Seen

Resident.

Await

S N. 11 : Issued

paragraph 2 of S. 6.

As complete stoppage of sewage irrigation in blocks I and II was likely to lead to congestion of sewage irrigation at the lower end in block III, I put forward a proposal that sewage should be stopped in bad cases in all three blocks which were found breeding mosquitoes heavily, the other cases being allowed to remain until a proper sewage disposal scheme is in being. The Commission accepted this proposal at its meeting held on the 28th September 1939 in supersession of its resolution of May 1939 to stop sewage irrigation completely in blocks I and II. I have accordingly issued notices to stop sewage in bad cases in all the three blocks and these include cases near the British Military Hospital also. It is hoped that the mosquito nuisance will be very much reduced by the end of December.

N.H. Carleton

OFFICE OF THE
HON'BLE THE RESIDENT
IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
18 NOV. 1939
Diary No. 11,670
File No.

To

The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore.

U.O. No. 9f. 81/39. dated 16th November 1939.

Draft to G.O.C. Telly Tuin

19/11/39.

Draft submitted.

21/11/39.

S. N. 13. 18/11

ULSOOR SEWAGE FARM

WHY IT SHOULD BE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY?

PLEASE LOOK FOR FACTS WITHIN

Mosquito Scourge of Ulsoor

SEWAGE FARM—A BREEDING STATION

GRIEVANCES OF THE RESIDENTS UNREDRESSED.

Many years ago Sri. C. Vijiaraghavachariar of Salem, expressed in most categorical terms that "the only safe way of disposing of the sewage in India now is by establishing Sewage farms everywhere and not by emptying the drains into rivers; nor even into the sea unless the sewage can be taken far from the shore and sunk somewhat deep." The above statement was made by him in regard to the sewage system prevailing in the city of Madras, where the sewage is even to-day being let into the sea as observed by the Commissioner of Madras Corporation at its meeting held on the 27th September 1939. As regards the system it was rightly pointed out by Sri. C. Vijiaraghavachriar that "there are no organisms in river waters to destroy the bacteria of the sewage, while though there are such in the sea, they cannot be of much use near the shore because the sewage floats."

Dr. FOWLER'S OBSERVATION.

Speaking on this very subject a couple of years ago to a gathering of councillors of the Madras

Corporation, presided over by Mr. K. Sriramulu Naidu, the Mayor of Madras, Dr. Fowler laid special emphasis on the fact that "the wasted wealth of Madras consisted in water, nightsoil and refuse....." "By so doing", he observed "they not only wasted water but also wasted what was dissolved in it, namely nitrogen, phosphorous and organic matter present in human waste.

Sir John Russell speaking at Bangalore some time ago on the agricultural problems of India, remarked that the waste of phosphoric acid was a serious matter. They were now throwing into the sea a large quantity of phosphorous and a certain amount of potash also. Therefore the problem before them was not the disposal of the waste but the utilisation of the waste." Towards a successful realisation of the object Dr. Fowler recommended the preparation of compost manure by the activated sludge process for the serious consideration of the Madras Corporation, very similar to the proposal considered by our own Municipal Commission and which was held in abeyance on the plea of lack of funds to launch out the rather costly scheme. Though it was before the Madras Corporation for a very long time, it was only at its meeting of 29th September last that a resolution was passed for the construction of an "activated sludge plant in Otteri dumping ground for the disposal of sewage from Chetput and Kilpauk." It was strongly impressed on the minds of the Councillors by Dr. U. Krishna Rao, a brother Councillor that "the possible improvement to public health was an important consideration in proceeding with the scheme."

SIR JOHN RUSSEL.

In connection with the above process recommended by Dr. Fowler, Sir John Russel, the British expert observed thus in the year 1936. "Preparation of manure from town refuse and waste material was a scheme started in January 1935 with a grant of Rs. 4,950 to be spread over two years. The subject is important and the location of the scheme is eminently suitable as Prof. Subrahmanyam is an authority on the nitrogen change involved and Dr. Gilbert Fowler, one of the leading experts on town wastes and sewage, resides at Bangalore and is interested in the work. Considerable interest is being taken at a number of agricultural experimental stations in this question of composting and a good deal of disconnected and uncoordinated work is being done." Sir John Russell also said "I strongly recommend that the results obtained up to the present should be brought together by some competent impartial person and issued as a monograph which could serve as a basis for discussion and further experiment". It will be seen from the above that the whole scheme is still, may I say, in an experimental stage, though Dr. Fowler in reply to a question from Mr. K. Bhashyam of Madras replied "that there was no need for experimenting at all." Since the scheme appears to be very costly, and that the fact that the manufactured sludge compost could "easily get Rs. 25 per ton" and "even if it remained unsold, there was no danger of its becoming noxious", it does not instil hope and cannot in such Municipalities as ours with limited resources, of a sure return for the capital sunk in erecting a plant.

OUR SEWAGE FARM TODAY.

According to the observation made by Sri C. Vijiaragavachariar, Bangalore Cantonment should be considered to be really fortunate in having a Sewage farm, since Bangalore has neither a river nor a sea-front to push the sewage into them. In the opinion of the venerable old gentleman who has rich experience of civic affairs it should be clearly understood that the Sewage Farm should not prove a detriment to the health of the town, and to be a blessing, it should be away from the town limits.

A walk along the Sewage drain channel one fine morning beyond what is popularly known as Binnamangalam Kodi channel, was a rude shock to the finer senses in us. This opened our eyes to the existence of Plague Spot No. I in this very city which is spoken of as "Beauty Spot". The foul odour that emanated from the sewage water, the condition in which the agriculturists worked on the farms of both the rich and the poor, the many stagnant pools that gave birth to millions of mosquitoes and the cluster of larvae that cannot escape one's eye are really beyond description. The feeble efforts of the Health Department of C. & M. Station Municipal Commission in causing the spraying of Anti-mosquito oil in private dwelling places once a bluemoon day and that indifferently, can only mean wasting and squandering of poor tax-payers' money leaving the source of this scourge uneradicated. What is it that one sees in the Sewage farm to-day in the vicinity

of human habitation? In this connection it will be interesting to note that not long ago in the year 1933, Col. MacPherson, Col. Scott and Major Price, made the following observation recommending the closure of sewage irrigation:—"Allowing of sewage water for cultivation of vegetables is insanitary and not advisable to allow in the immediate neighbourhood of densly inhabited areas."

Lingiapalya:—G No. 8th and G No. 9th streets of Joughpalayam are enough to make your nostrils stink with the poison-laden air and goad one to run away from the place if only to save himself. It is in our opinion worse than a gas bomb. Yet many hundreds of poor people, who have neither the alternative of bungalows, nor the voice to make known their grievances to the powers-that-be are forced to inhale this poison gas every minute of their existence and are compelled to live with their wives, sisters, mothers and children as dear to them as to the welltodo few subjecting themselves to slow death, the direct effect of the scourge of Malaria, attended with loss of vitality and reserve energy. Where then is the need for wasting people's money in so many other ways, when contrary to all health principles and laws of Hygiene this plague spot of a sewage farm very near human habitation is allowed to be retained by the Municipal Commission without closing it immediately on the plea that they got a pittance by way of revenue? It is almost certain that if such a farm were to exist adjacent to the quarters of people who live in bungalows neither the residents nor the powers-that-be

would have allowed this eye-sore and this plague spot to remain a moment longer. "Suffering is the badge of our tribe" and accordingly the residents of Joughpalayam who are poor find themselves at a disadvantage against the farm-owners, a few of them who come under the categery of "Capitalists" before whom even Justice tilts her scales and is not even-handed.

THE MEN ON THE FARMS.

The farms which are mostly under grass cultivation are studded with small stagnant cess-pools which breed mosquitoes in their millions and billions, vitiating the very atmosphere with the foul smell of the sewage water baled out to these farms by piccotas. The night soil that floats on the sewage water when transferred to these farms along with the water are allowed to rot on the farms. The absolute unconcern with which the capitalists ignore the health of their ryots and of the people living in Joughpalayam, Ulsoor and the surroundlng parts and concentrate their attention on their profits at the expense of the entire population of Bangalore, is sufficient to expose to naked view the dark side of human nature, of the ego-centredness of a type of human beings. Even the low average age of 23 years for an Indian becomes reduced in the case of these ryots who slave like this. Nor have they or can they have the health to eat what are grown on the farms, however luscious may be the vegetables or the figs that are produced. Dr. Fowler rightly states that "by utilising the

sludge or sludge in the form of compost, they would be improving both the quality and the quantity of the foodstuffs grown". It is an undeniable fact that vegetables grown on the outskirts of Madras or near Saidapet are tabooed by the people of Madras for fear of "*Elephantiasis.*" The quantity may be really considerable, but what can one say of the quality when one sees nightsoil refuse are allowed to rot on these farms where figs and cabbages are grown? Only when the nightsoil is converted into manure or ash or into sludge or sludge in the form of compost, it becomes "wealth" as Dr. Fowler calls it, and becomes also "life"; but as it is, it is disease, and infection, and "Death" finally.

THE LOCATION OF THE FARM.

The Sewage Farm is just behind Joughpalayam, and the foul smell of the sewage water stagnating on the grass grown fields almost near dwelling houses is really unbearable. The suburb of Joughpalayam is extending eastward and northward every day and dwelling houses project towards the farm side. The inhabitants, majority of them being wage-earners and work-a-day class of people and most of them illiterate are really voiceless and too ignorant to ventilate their own grievences to the proper authorities for a remedy, leaving aside *timely remedy.* Nor the so-called people's representatives on the Commission come forward to espouse the cause of the poor and deliver them from such scourges. Even the Congress Commissioners whose Slogan is "Service to the poor and relief to the depressed" and who are never tired

of using the sacred name of the "Congress" for success in their election, have not been fair to this question and are seen to hobnob with the capitalists as against the protests of the poor people, who are not sympathetic towards the grievences of the poor who drag on a miserable existence day in and day out, year in and year out. Only very recently a Congress worker while speaking at the election meeting had the temerity to denounce the work of those who were interested in closing the sewage farm and publicly announced that the Congress Commissioners had made arrangements with the Commission to see that the sewage water stated to be closed for irrigation in blocks No. 1 and 2 would not be closed but only five or six farms that are in very bad condition in block III would become affected by the Resolution passed by the Municipal Commission so long ago as April last and later confirmed in subsequent meetings of the Commission.

APRIL 1939 RESOLUTON—BEFORE AND AFTER.

At this stage it seems essential a few incontrovertible facts should be mentioned in support of the statement made *supra*. It is reliably learnt that the sewage drain channel that continues right up to Chellaghatta lake near Domalur, even beyond the boundary limits of C. & M. Station, and right into the Mysore State proper to some considerable distance, was constructed by the Municipal Commission in 1908 at such a huge cost as Rs. 50,000 and perhaps a little more, with the *sole* and *express object* of taking the sewage water with all its suspended and dissolved impurities right into the

middle of the lake to avoid nightsoil floating on its banks. To that extent the slab stone-mortar channel is said to run. The very idea of the Municipal Commission when it resolved in 1908, and had it constructed at such a huge cost, should have been fundamentally to safeguard the health of the British Troops quartered in the Station (both British and Indian) and incidentally, if not primarily, of the health of the Civil population also which was and still is found essential to cater to the needs of both the Military and the Civil side of the Government established by law.

Almost a generation has elapsed since the sewage channel was constructed. It is presumed that both the Civil and Military medical and health authorities, quite satisfied that the sewage channel was away from human habitation, at a time when Ulsoor, and even the Cantonment area proper could not boast of the Extensions to its right and to its left, nor had anticipated that such extensions would rise at a later time, sanctioned its construction. When as pointed out on another page Col. Macpherson, Col. Scott and Major Price very recently as 1933 had expressed their condemnation against the existence and retention of the Sewage Farm very near human habitation, it passes one's understanding and intelligence, whether their predecessors in office would ever have transgressed health and hygienic principles, casting them to the four winds and would ever have given their consent even for the sake of prestige and the notion of superiority complex for the retention of the Sewage Farm which today has become a menace and a central mosquito-breeding station

much to the detriment of not only the Military to the North and South of it, but also of the docile, law-abiding, God-fearing civil population to the West and those sick in-patients of the Isolation Hospital to the East, where they are combating with grim Death for saving their dear and precious sweet lives from the fell scourges like Tuberculosis, Cholera, Plague and the like.

It will not be out of place in this connection to offer our humble suggestion to the Health authorities of the Station and also the Health officer of the Municipal Commission to make an earnest search for the Thirty-year old plans and estimates that might lie hidden dust-laden in some of the neglected and forgotten archives of the Municipal Commission. Now a few of the interested Commissioners are understood to be shedding crocodile's tears in defence of the farm-owners who stand benefitted by this Sewage Farm at the expense of the health of the entire population of Cantonment and City proper and have clutched this problem as a handy tool even as the drowning man a piece of straw to contest the Municipal Elections as against the modest claims of the many other candidates of different persuasions who have grown grey in the service of the public,— which after all is a thankless job in these days of cries of Democracy in the air. The hectic manner in which the interested persons and groups of individuals are moving heaven and earth to undo and unsettle the settled problem that was decided thirty years ago and fortunately brought to life again by the wise and wary residents of Ulsoor and Joughpalayam, who

succeeded in getting an official resolution to close the Sewage Farm as far as Appireddipalya in the first instance passed unanimously without even one dissenting vote in April last, lends serious suspicion to thinking minds that all is not well with the methods adopted by the few interested Commissioners who now oppose the very closure which they with their eyes wide open voted for in the resolutions of April and May last. Either they should be irresponsible or that they have their axes to grind!

The farm is situated centrally very near human habitation and is causing a great deal of inconvenience. A walk on the Old Madas Road from the third mile stone to the Boundary stone very near the Isolation Hospital causes a stink in one's nostrils and one who goes out for a walk in the evenings for health, has only to breathe the foul air contaminated by the sewage odour. A few minutes' stop near the signboard of Devidas & Co's farm beyond the Muslim Cemetery and the vineyard will convince one as to what exactly we wish to convey. On one side there are the quarters of the Sappers and Miners, on the other side the Isolation Hospital, the third side the residents of Joughpalayam and on the fourth side the British Military Hospital etc. All these are affected by this sewage farm. Where then can the health of the town of Bangalore, much less the suburb of Ulsoor be guaranteed when this plague spot is allowed to remain for the sake of a few who own lands near the locality. One who takes a regular walk on the Old Madras Road breathes in more the poisoned and vitiated air than anything of pure

God-given air. The mosquitoes that are born of this infected place, this plague spot, not only deprive the poor half-starved people of what little blood that streams through their veins and arteries but sap their very vitality. The mosquitoes, like the C. I. D. Police on surveillance duty chase the political from place to place and hand him over to the other, chase people from the sewage farm to the Ulsoor lake, which by itself breeds a good number of fat mosquitoes, and from Ulsoor lake to Cantonment and from Cantonment to Tasker Town where they hand the people over to the mosquitoes that watch the locality near the water spread area by the Queen's Road. Such is the condition of this city of Bangalore which is widely broadcasted to be a health resort possessing a salubrious climate. Of-course it is no use gainsaying that it is a health resort for the few rich who have the means to protect themselves with mosquito curtains and such other modern devices and enjoy the salubrious climate. What of the poor thousands who drag on their miserable existence and die unwept, unhonoured and unsung? From the above it will be apparent that it is high time that the sewage farm is closed for irrigation irrespective of the personalities directly concerned in this affair and irrespective too of the very meagre return, taking into consideration the health and wellbeing of the residents which is the sole end and aim of a Civic Institution as that of our Municipal Commission.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

One can imagine the condition of the poor patients that seek their refuge in the Isolation Hospital. The

nearness of the sewage farm, the foul odour that emanates from it, and the army of Mosquitoes that invade the hospital and the havoc that they do on the poor patients who are struggling with life should carry conviction to the health authorities to have nothing to do with the sewage farm as it is situated to-day, but immediately close it thereby saving a few thousands of rupees which they spend on Anti-Malarial measures. How much should it be considered a havoc by the inmates of the sick people in the British Military Hospital and the poor residents of Joughpalayam who sleep more in the open without mosquito curtains or any such protection, could more be imagined than said in human language which is really impotent to bring out clearly what the human mind wishes to convey. The last straw on the camel's back is the action of the Congress Commissioners who announce that they have reversed the resolutions that were passed in the Commission last April and that only Block III will be closed. It may be a hundred or two of the labourers working on the farm might be affected by the closure of the Sewage irrigation, but think of the havoc that such a thing causes to the entire City of Bangalore C. & M. Station. Which is the lesser of the two evils should be taken into consideration when coming out to serve the public.

CONCLUSION.

It is our earnest prayer therefore that the Municipal Commission, without any further hesitation, put into effect their original resolution of closing the sewage irrigation as far as Appireddypalaya and not

mince matters on any score or pretext. Let not any false cry or the election stunt of the Congress Commissioners or unfounded charges by the ignorant Congress platform-speakers cause any the slightest deviation from the original resolve. Let the sewage irrigation as far as Appireddypalaya be stopped *AT ONCE* and *NOW* is the sincere prayer of not only a few but of the entire population of Ulsoor Division.

V. Naid & Co. Bangalore.

P.U.C

c.p. 21 to 38 of (S) 24

D.No.12035 S.N.14

Please see S.N.11 and 12, and the foregoing notes from para 16.

Draft submitted.

N.P.
2-12-39

ILC
2.12.39
4

A.S.

Secy 25 No need to send this to PMC. He must have had hundreds of them. But Resident would probably like to know whether he has been in touch with these gentlemen & satisfied them somewhat.

5/12/39

OFFICE OF THE
HON'BLE THE RESIDENT
IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
2 JAN. 1940
Diary No 15
File No.....

PMC u/o.

D.No.12035 dt 5-12-39. P.U.C.

26 I received a similar memorial and a copy of the pamphlet. In order to meet this sort of misinformed propaganda, I issued a press note of which I enclose a copy. It was published in the issue of the "Daily Post" dated 21st November 1939. I think nothing further is necessary at present.

H.H. Garbett

To,
The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

U. O. No. Gpt. 81/39 dated 20th December 1939.

Below.

4.50 pm.
W.C.N.
22/12

Despatched

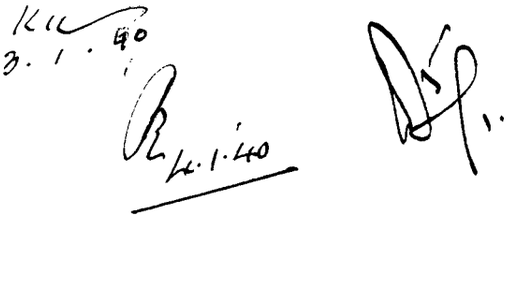
27 Where is Collector's Press Note? Not received
23/12 24/12 23/12

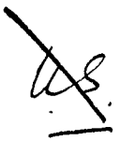
P.C. p. 42 FLAG X

From pre-page.

28

These papers may now be filed.





33
~~37~~

We may inform the P.D. that the results of certain experiments in Mysore are awaited. These may do away with the necessity for Mr. Griffin's expert advice. Should his services be required later we will ~~inform them~~ again ask for them.

D 6/2

~~Resident~~

from 2 34.

34

~~[illegible]~~

D 6/2

Yes. as suggested.

V. G. 6/2

Draft submitted.

M.P.
7-2-40

D 8/2

7.2.40

U.S.

17
S.N. 19: 18ne

Await

BANGALORE C&M STATION MUNICIPALITY
Office Hours :—
11 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Telephone No. 55.

Mayo Hall.

No. Eft.9/89.2 153 May 19 39.

OFFICE OF THE
HON'BLE THE RESIDENT
IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
19 MAY 1939
Diary No. 5076.
File No. RA 64/39.

My dear Trevaskis

I regret that I have been able to make little progress with the sewage disposal scheme. We started off well with a meeting in March 1938, when after much discussion our proposals for the distribution of cost between the two Municipalities were accepted; for the combined sewage outfall works and maintenance charges, proportions of 2/5 Station and 3/5 City; and for laying the sewer from the septic tank near Sunekal Farm to the proposed outfall works, proportions of 5/16 Station and 11/16 City.

We have been held up as to the method of sewage disposal. At the meeting in March 1938 the Director of Public Health in Mysore said that he was experimenting with the chemical process, which he thought would be much cheaper than the activated sludge process but equally effective, and that he would be able to present a final report in about three months. The Committee agreed that he should proceed with his experiments. But I gather that he has not been able to do so on the scale he wanted because the Mysore Government would not

BANGALORE C & M STATION MUNICIPALITY

Office Hours :—
11 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Telephone No. 55.

Mayo Hall.

19

not agree to the expenditure involved. I have in fact gained an impression, which was confirmed at a meeting of the Committee held in March 1939, that the Mysore Government had some doubt whether it was worth while proceeding with a joint scheme: they may have thought that the whole question was better deferred until after retrocession. However that may be, I indicated that we would be prepared if necessary to share the cost of the experiments, and the Director of Public Health has since informed me that on the basis of certain figures he is again asking the Mysore Government for sanction to proceed with large scale experiments; and I understand that permission will be given. The figures that he gives for a joint scheme under the two methods are as follows:

Simplex Method.		Chemical Method.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Initial Expenditure .. (The Company reserves the right to revise the price at the time of placing orders)	8,10,000	Initial Expenditure	1,50,000
Recurring.		Recurring.	
Probable power charges ..	34,000	Cost of Chemicals about Rs.	40,000
Establishment and other charges	7,000	Establishment.	2,500
	41,000	Depreciation.	7,500
Depreciation @ 5%	41,000	Interest @ 4%	6,000
Interest @ 4%	33,000		
Total Rs.	1,15,000	Total Rs.	56,000

BANGALORE C & M STATION MUNICIPALITY
Office Hours :-
11 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Telephone No. 55.

Mayo Hall.

19 .

It will be seen that according to the Director of Public Health the chemical process is very much cheaper. On the other hand we must be satisfied that it can dispose effectively of both fluid and solid contents. We must therefore await the result of these experiments, and the difference in cost is so great that we cannot consider ways and means until we know which method is to be adopted.

As you know, I have also had under consideration a complete underground sewage scheme. If the Government of India gave us permission to raise the money required (about 3 lakhs) in the open market (we would prefer a grant!) we could I think repay it, capital and interest, in about 20 or 25 years. But I have come to the conclusion that the disposal scheme ought to precede the underground scheme and in any case the cost of both schemes must be considered as a whole.

I propose to draw Carleston's attention to this matter

S.N.(3) Draft.

R.Dis.No.F.64-39/G. & A.

Dated Bangalore, the 31st May. 1939.

From

Secretary to the Resident.

To

B.T.Kesavaiengar,Esqr., B.A.,
Chief Secretary to the Govt.
of Mysore, Bangalore.

BANGALORE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME.

D.O.

My dear Mr. Kesaviengar.

Will you please refer to the Resident's Proceedings No.F.192-37/R.O.II. dated the 21st October 1937, constituting a joint Standing Committee for formulating a scheme for the disposal of sewage in the C. & M. Station and Bangalore City?

2. It is understood that the work of the Committee has been held up pending a final report from the Director of Public Health in Mysore on his experimen with the chemical process of sewage dis posal.

3. The Resident is anxious that the scheme should be got ready as early as possible and will be glad if you will kindly see that the report of the Direct of Public Health is made available to the Committee at an early date.

Yours Sincerely

17

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE

General and Revenue Secretariat

No. Rol 1493 L.S.G. S.N. 4

Dated, Bangalore, 10th June 1939.

From

P. H. Krishna Rao Esq., M.A.,
Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.
Local Self-Government Department.

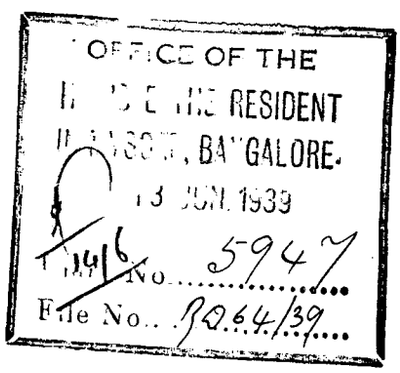
To

The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

Sir,

S.N. 3

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of D.O. letter No. R. Dis. F. 64-39/G. & A. dated 31st May 1939 addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government requesting that the Director of Public Health may be instructed to make available to the Joint Standing Committee for formulating a scheme for the disposal of the sewage in the Civil and Military Station and Bangalore City the report of the results of the experiments with the chemical process of the sewage disposal and to state that necessary instructions have been issued to that officer for expediting the experiments.



I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Secretary to Government,
Local Self-Government Department.

S.N.5

(8)

Draft.

Issued 20/6/39 Hs.

17/6

R.Dis.No.F.64-39/G.& A.

Dated Bangalore, the 20th June 1939.

From

Secretary to the Resident.

To

H.H.Carleston, Esqr., I.C.S.,
President, Municipal Commission,
C. & M. Station, Bangalore.

Bangalore Sewage Disposal Scheme.

D.O.

My dear Mr. Carleston,

S.N.2 (5)

Please refer to Williams' demi-official letter No.Gt.9/89-7, dated the ~~15th~~ 10th May 1939.

2. The Government of Mysore have issued instructions to the Director of Public Health to expedite the experiments and to make his report available to the Committee at an early date.

Yours sincerely,

17.6

16.6.39

L 18/6/39

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that such action in one portion of the Town will not adversely affect the British Military Hospital area and is suggesting to him that he should examine whether a certain amount of sewage irrigation near the British Military Hospital might, for the same reason, be stopped now.

Yours Sincerely.

o/c

Major General E.F.Norton, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.,
General Officer Commanding,
Madras District, Bangalore.

KK

S.N.6

12

D.O.R.Dis.No.F.64-39
G & A

Bangalore,
9th August 1939.

issued
9/8/39

Dear General Norton,

S.N.6
(S)

This letter is in continuation of my letter R.Dis.No.F.64-39/G & A., dated the 5th August, about the Joint Sewage Disposal Scheme. The Resident spoke to the Dewan this morning. He is himself very disappointed at the delay in the experiments. He is not very hopeful about this chemical process and thinks that it would be better to stick to well-established processes that have been successful elsewhere. The Government of Mysore will have no difficulty about promising to take over the financial obligations under the scheme to the extent of the retroceded area's share on retrocession, but they will raise thequestion of a contribution to the scheme by the military authorities. Sir Mirza is going to see that the progress of the scheme is expedited.

Yours sincerely,

Major-General E.F.Norton, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.,
General Officer Commanding,
Madras District, Bangalore.

S.N.7

D.O.Letter No.25211/M. Headquarters, Madras District,
Bangalore, 17 August, 1939.

G1A

P 17/8/39.

My dear Trevelyan

S.N.8 (5)
Cp.12

General Norton has asked me to acknowledge your letter of the 9th inst.

He would be glad if you could keep this Headquarters informed of the progress of the scheme for Sewage Disposal.

OFFICE OF THE
HON'BLE THE RESIDENT
IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
18 AUG. 1939
Diary No. 85-90
File No.
RD-64/39

Yours sincerely
H. Trevelyan.

H.Trevelyan Esqre, I.C.S.
Secretary to the Resident in Mysore,
The Residency - Bangalore.

Govt Tom 4'45pm Spy S.N.10 (14

5—3,000—12—5—39

No. US 156/2/37 CIVIL & MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE,
Enc. 2. MUNICIPAL OFFICE.

Dated 4th September, 1939.

From

H. H. CARLESTON, ESQ., I.C.S.,
President, Municipal Commission,
Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

OFFICE OF THE
HON'BLE THE RESIDENT
IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
To
Diary No. 9264
File No. P264/39

The Secretary to the
Hon'ble the Resident, in Mysore,
BANGALORE.

Sir,

Bangalore Sewage Disposal Scheme.

S.N 15 cp. 8 (S) I have the honour to invite a kind reference to Mr.Courtney's D.O.Letter No.R.Dis.No.F.64-39/ G & A dated the 20th June, 1939 on the above subject and to state that the report of the Director of Public Health in Mysore on the experiments being carried on by him regarding the Chemical Process of disposal has not yet been received and is awaited. In the meantime I would request you to kindly move the Government of India with a view to get the opinion and advice of the Superintending Engineer of Health Services, New Delhi, regarding the relative merits of the "Simplex" and "Chemical" processes of disposal of the sewage referred to in Mr.Williams' D.O. letter dated 15th May 1939, and other details of the scheme under consideration, so that the Committee, when they meet, might have the benefit of the Government of India Expert's considered opinion in the matter in order to arrive at a decision and frame their recommendations without loss of time. The Mysore Government are putting a practical large scale experiment in hand and this will be watched for the next two or three months.

S.N.2 of (S)

I enclose herewith for information copies of a letter No.U.S.156/1/39 dated 7th July, 1939 addressed by the Executive Engineer of this Municipality to the Superintending Engineer,

Page 15 infra.

Health

*P 17 infra. Health Services, Government of India, and his reply thereto No.A & G/C dated 18th July 1939. Any other information that the latter may require would be furnished by the Executive Engineer of this Municipality.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. H. Carlton

President,
Municipal Commission.

SJR.2/9/39

25.9.39

11/9/39

15

No.U.S.156/1/37 CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT,

Dated the 7th July, 1939.

From.

J.W.EDWIN ESQ., A.M.I.S.E.,
Municipal Executive Engineer,
Civil and Military Station,
Bangalore.

To

The Superintending Engineer,
Public Health Service,
Government of India,
NEW DELHI.

Sir,

I have the honour to state that the question of sewage disposal of both the Civil and Military Station and the City of Bangalore has been engaging the attention of both these Municipalities and investigations are being made as to the best method of disposal.

2. We have had the question of disposal by Simplex and Activated Sludge processes examined as regards cost and efficiency, but it has been suggested th t disposal by "Chemical Process" is much cheaper both in Initial and recurring charges and more desirable also as being free from fly and odour nuisance. The Director of Public Health, Mysore, is now engaged in carrying out experiments on a fairly large scale to arrive at definite data and his results are awaited.

3. In the meantime, I should be obliged if you will kindly furnish me with detailed information regarding the disposal of sewage by this Chemical process and your own views on this method of treatment. It is proposed to have a combined Scheme for the disposal of the sewage of both these Municipalities collecting it at a central place.

4. The following statement gives details with regard to the extent of town area, population, quantity of water issued from the new Chamarajandra Reservoir which is the source of water supply both to the City and C. & M. Station, and the probable expected sewage at the outfall works etc;-

P.T.O.

(6)

Particulars.	Details for Bangalore City.	Details for Civil & Military Station.	Total for both City and C. & M.Station.
Town extent.	About 6000 acres.	About 6000 acres.	12,000 acres.
Population.	2,01,260	1,42,266	3,43,526
Water issued from New Chamarajendra Reservoir.	3.5 million gallons per day.	2.3 million gallons per day.	5.8 million gallons per day.
Sewage flow expected at out-fall works.	1.75 million gallons per day.	0.8 million gallons per day.	~~2.44~~ 1.93 million gallons per day.

5. For a combined scheme we can at present take sewage discharges of 3 million gallons per day for the City and 1.8 for the civil and military Station, total 4.8 or 5 million gallons per day against a summer water supply issue from the Reservoir of 6 million gallons per day. This is expected to provide for the sewage disposal requirements of some future years.

6. As it is thought that there will be a great saving in cost by having recourse to the chemical process, I request you to kindly let me have your views on the matter in all its aspects. Any further information that you may require in this connection will be sent to you.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) J.W.EDWIN

SJR.2/9

Executive Engineer.

Copy

5.9.29

S.N.11

18

DEPARTMENT.

BRANCH.

File No.

Serial No.

Draft Letter / Memorandum / Telegram

R.D No. F.64-39 G. & A. Dated 21st September 1939

Class for telegrams

INLAND:	FOREIGN:
Immediate	Immediate
Important	Important
Express	Ordinary
Ordinary	Without priority

To be issued on

Issued on

1st Reminder

2nd Reminder

3rd Reminder

Heading:

Case or Diary No.

If post copy of telegram required

Date of despatch of above

List of enclosures

(Code word for telegrams.)

S.N 29 (B)

Cp. 47

From

The Hon'ble the Resident.

To

The Secretary
to His Excellency
the Crown Representative,
S I M L A.

Bangalore Sewage Disposal Scheme

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Memorandum from the late Foreign and Political Department No.F.72-A/35, dated the 7th November 1935.

2. A combined scheme for the disposal of sewage in the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore and Bangalore City is under consideration of a joint committee. The Director of Public Health in Mysore who is a member of this committee is of opinion that the 'chemical' process of disposal of sewage will be much cheaper than the activated sludge process but equally effective. The figures that he gives for a joint scheme under the two methods are as follows:-

S. 5.
MGIPC—S5—1595(S&P)MFP—(M-944)—6-3-39—60,000 Pads.

Simplex

cp. 15 of Pnc.

cp 17 of Pnc

of a letter No.U.S.156/1/39, dated the 7th July 1939 addressed by the Executive Engineer, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore to the Superintending Engineer, Health Services, Government of India, and his reply thereto No.A & G/C, dated the 18th July 1939. I shall send any other information if required by the Superintending - - Engineer.

I have, etc.

RC

R E S I D E N T.

KIC 13.9.39

S.N. 12

(21)

Ulsoor, C. & M. Station, Bangalore,

October 23, 1939.

To

The Hon'ble The British Resident in Mysore

Bangalore

OFFICE OF THE
HON'BLE THE RESIDENT
IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
26 Oct 1939
Diary No. 10,900
File No.

Sir,

We, the undersigned, a select few among the hundred and more signatories to the mahazar (memorial) submitted to the President, Municipal Commission, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, in February this year protesting against the retention of the Sewage Farm in our locality, situated very "near human habitation" have much pleasure in forwarding to you a copy of the brochure bearing the title of "ULSOOR SEWAGE FARM—WHY IT SHOULD BE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY—PLEASE LOOK FOR FACTS WITHIN" published by us in behalf of the residents of Ulsoor, for your very kind information and sympathetic and favourable attention.

While in the opinion of authorities and experts in the line India is stated to pay a very heavy toll of human lives to the tune of TEN MILLIONS every year through Malaria, and also through other mosquito-borne diseases, and while the LEAGUE of NATIONS, International Health Bureau, are interesting themselves seriously in devising ways and means to end this scourge, we are of the firm conviction that it is high time that the Ulsoor Sewage Farm is closed to irrigation immediately, and the City rid of this fell scourge.

The brochure sent to you will, we are confident, explain clearly the history of the Sewage Farm, and how, in spite of expert opinion given by eminent Medical and Health authorities, it is being allowed to remain undisturbed much to the detriment of the health of the residents of Bangalore in general, after all for a paltry couple of thousands of rupees that the local Municipal Commission derive from it as its revenue, oblivious to the fact—grim and bald fact—that more than double that amount is being spent—shall we say wasted?—on what are called "Anti-Malarial measures" which to our mind seems to be a mere eyewash. We feel confident that you will extend to us your moral support and willingly co-operate in getting the Sewage Farm closed as it is a fertile mosquito-breeding centre in this part of Bangalore.

Soliciting your esteemed co-operation and moral support.

We remain, Sir,
Yours very truly,

Not signed: Permanent Secretary

(Sd.) M. HANUMANTHAPPA.
,, B. G. SRIRAMULU NAIDU.
,, S. D. VENKATARAMANAN.
,, T. N. DODDIAH.
,, J. S. ANNIAH REDDY.

122

ULSOOR SEWAGE FARM

WHY IT SHOULD BE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY?

PLEASE LOOK FOR FACTS WITHIN

44

Mosquito Scourge of Ulsoor

SEWAGE FARM—A BREEDING STATION

GRIEVANCES OF THE RESIDENTS UNREDRESSED.

Many years ago Sri. C. Vijiaraghavachariar of Salem, expressed in most categorical terms that "the only safe way of disposing of the sewage in India now is by establishing Sewage farms everywhere and not by emptying the drains into rivers; nor even into the sea unless the sewage can be taken far from the shore and sunk somewhat deep." The above statement was made by him in regard to the sewage system prevailing in the city of Madras, where the sewage is even to-day being let into the sea as observed by the Commissioner of Madras Corporation at its meeting held on the 27th September 1939. As regards the system it was rightly pointed out by Sri. C. Vijiaraghavachriar that "there are no organisms in river waters to destroy the bacteria of the sewage, while though there are such in the sea, they cannot be of much use near the shore because the sewage floats."

Dr. FOWLER'S OBSERVATION.

Speaking on this very subject a couple of years ago to a gathering of councillors of the Madras

Corporation, presided over by Mr. K. Sriramulu Naidu, the Mayor of Madras; Dr. Fowler laid special emphasis on the fact that "the wasted wealth of Madras consisted in water, nightsoil and refuse....." "By so doing"; he observed "they not only wasted water but also wasted what was dissolved in it, namely nitrogen, phosphorous and organic matter present in human waste.

Sir John Russell speaking at Bangalore some time ago on the agricultural problems of India, remarked that the waste of phosphoric acid was a serious matter. They were now throwing into the sea a large quantity of phosphorous and a certain amount of potash also. Therefore the problem before them was not the disposal of the waste but the utilisation of the waste." Towards a successful realisation of the object Dr. Fowler recommended the preparation of compost manure by the activated sludge process for the serious consideration of the Madras Corporation, very similar to the proposal considered by our own Municipal Commission and which was held in abeyance on the plea of lack of funds to launch out the rather costly scheme. Though it was before the Madras Corporation for a very long time, it was only at its meeting of 29th September last that a resolution was passed for the construction of an "activated sludge plant in Otteri dumping ground for the disposal of sewage from Chetput and Kilpauk." It was strongly impressed on the minds of the Councillors by Dr. U. Krishna Rao, a brother Councillor that "the possible improvement to public health was an important consideration in proceeding with the scheme."

SIR JOHN RUSSEL.

In connection with the above process recommended by Dr. Fowler, Sir John Russel, the British expert observed thus in the year 1936. "Preparation of manure from town refuse and waste material was a scheme started in January 1935 with a grant of Rs. 4,950 to be spread over two years. The subject is important and the location of the scheme is eminently suitable as Prof. Subrahmanyam is an authority on the nitrogen change involved and Dr. Gilbert Fowler, one of the leading experts on town wastes and sewage, resides at Bangalore and is interested in the work. Considerable interest is being taken at a number of agricultural experimental stations in this question of composting and a good deal of disconnected and uncoordinated work is being done." Sir John Russell also said "I strongly recommend that the results obtained up to the present should be brought together by some competent impartial person and issued as a monograph which could serve as a basis for discussion and further experiment". It will be seen from the above that the whole scheme is still, may I say, in an experimental stage, though Dr. Fowler in reply to a question from Mr. K. Bhashyam of Madras replied "that there was no need for experimenting at all." Since the scheme appears to be very costly, and that the fact that the manufactured sludge compost could "easily get Rs. 25 per ton" and "even if it remained unsold, there was no danger of its becoming noxious", it does not instil hope and cannot in such Municipalities as ours with limited resources, of a sure return for the capital sunk in erecting a plant.

OUR SEWAGE FARM TODAY.

According to the observation made by Sri C. Vijiaragavachariar, Bangalore Cantonment should be considered to be really fortunate in having a Sewage farm, since Bangalore has neither a river nor a sea-front to push the sewage into them. In the opinion of the venerable old gentleman who has rich experience of civic affairs it should be clearly understood that the Sewage Farm should not prove a detriment to the health of the town, and to be a blessing, it should be away from the town limits.

A walk along the Sewage drain channel one fine morning beyond what is popularly known as Binnamangalam Kodi channel, was a rude shock to the finer senses in us. This opened our eyes to the existence of Plague Spot No. I in this very city which is spoken of as "Beauty Spot". The foul odour that emanated from the sewage water, the condition in which the agriculturists worked on the farms of both the rich and the poor, the many stagnant pools that gave birth to millions of mosquitoes and the cluster of larvae that cannot escape one's eye are really beyond description. The feeble efforts of the Health Department of C. & M. Station Municipal Commission in causing the spraying of Anti-mosquito oil in private dwelling places once a bluemoon day and that indifferently, can only mean wasting and squandering of poor tax-payers' money leaving the source of this scourge *uneradicated*. What is it that one sees in the Sewage farm to-day in the vicinity

of human habitation? In this connection it will be interesting to note that not long ago in the year 1933, Col. MacPherson, Col. Scott and Major Price, made the following observation recommending the closure of sewage irrigation:—"Allowing of sewage water for cultivation of vegetables is insanitary and not advisable to allow in the immediate neighbourhood of densly inhabited areas."

Lingiapalya:—G No. 8th and G No. 9th streets of Joughpalayam are enough to make your nostrils stink with the poison-laden air and goad one to run away from the place if only to save himself. It is in our opinion worse than a gas bomb. Yet many hundreds of poor people, who have neither the alternative of bungalows, nor the voice to make known their grievances to the powers-that-be are forced to inhale this poison gas every minute of their existence and are compelled to live with their wives, sisters, mothers and children as dear to them as to the welltodo few subjecting themselves to slow death, the direct effect of the scourge of Malaria, attended with loss of vitality and reserve energy. Where then is the need for wasting people's money in so many other ways, when contrary to all health principles and laws of Hygiene this plague spot of a sewage farm very near human habitation is allowed to be retained by the Municipal Commission without closing it immediately on the plea that they got a pittance by way of revenue? It is almost certain that if such a farm were to exist adjacent to the quarters of people who live in bungalows neither the residents nor the powers-that-be

would have allowed this eye-sore and this plague spot to remain a moment longer. "Suffering is the badge of our tribe" and accordingly the residents of Joughpalayam who are poor find themselves at a disadvantage against the farm-owners, a few of them who come under the categery of "Capitalists" before whom even Justice tilts her scales and is not even-handed.

THE MEN ON THE FARMS.

The farms which are mostly under grass cultivation are studded with small stagnant cess-pools which breed mosquitoes in their millions and billions, vitiating the very atmosphere with the foul smell of the sewage water baled out to these farms by piccotas. The night soil that floats on the sewage water when transferred to these farms along with the water are allowed to rot on the farms. The absolute unconcern with which the capitalists ignore the health of their ryots and of the people living in Joughpalayam, Ulsoor and the surroundlng parts and concentrate their attention on their profits at the expense of the entire population of Bangalore, is sufficient to expose to naked view the dark side of human nature, of the ego-centredness of a type of human beings. Even the low average age of 23 years for an Indian becomes reduced in the case of these ryots who slave like this. Nor have they or can they have the health to eat what are grown on the farms, however luscious may be the vegetables or the figs that are produced. Dr. Fowler rightly states that "by utilising the

sludge or sludge in the form of compost, they would be improving both the quality and the quantity of the foodstuffs grown". It is an undeniable fact that vegetables grown on the outskirts of Madras or near Saidapet are tabooed by the people of Madras for fear of "*Elephantiasis.*" The quantity may be really considerable, but what can one say of the quality when one sees nightsoil refuse are allowed to rot on these farms where figs and cabbages are grown? Only when the nightsoil is converted into manure or ash or into sludge or sludge in the form of compost, it becomes "wealth" as Dr. Fowler calls it, and becomes also "life"; but as it is, it is disease, and infection, and "Death" finally.

THE LOCATION OF THE FARM.

The Sewage Farm is just behind Joughpalayam, and the foul smell of the sewage water stagnating on the grass grown fields almost near dwelling houses is really unbearable. The suburb of Joughpalayam is extending eastward and northward every day and dwelling houses project towards the farm side. The inhabitants, majority of them being wage-earners and work-a-day class of people and most of them illiterate are really voiceless and too ignorant to ventilate their own grievences to the proper authorities for a remedy, leaving aside *timely remedy.* Nor the so-called people's representatives on the Commission come forward to espouse the cause of the poor and deliver them from such scourges. Even the Congress Commissioners whose Slogan is "Service to the poor and relief to the depressed" and who are never tired

of using the sacred name of the "Congress" for success in their election, have not been fair to this question and are seen to hobnob with the capitalists as against the protests of the poor people, who are not sympathetic towards the grievences of the poor who drag on a miserable existence day in and day out, year in and year out. Only very recently a Congress worker while speaking at the election meeting had the temerity to denounce the work of those who were interested in closing the sewage farm and publicly announced that the Congress Commissioners had made arrangements with the Commission to see that the sewage water stated to be closed for irrigation in blocks No. 1 and 2 would not be closed but only five or six farms that are in very bad condition in block III would become affected by the Resolution passed by the Municipal Commission so long ago as April last and later confirmed in subsequent meetings of the Commission.

APRIL 1939 RESOLUTON—BEFORE AND AFTER.

At this stage it seems essential a few incontrovertible facts should be mentioned in support of the statement made *supra*. It is reliably learnt that the sewage drain channel that continues right up to Chellaghatta lake near Domalur, even beyond the boundary limits of C. & M. Station, and right into the Mysore State proper to some considerable distance, was constructed by the Municipal Commission in 1908 at such a huge cost as Rs. 50,000 and perhaps a little more, with the *sole* and *express object* of taking the sewage water with all its suspended and dissolved impurities right into the

middle of the lake to avoid nightsoil floating on its banks. To that extent the slab stone-mortar channel is said to run. The very idea of the Municipal Commission when it resolved in 1908, and had it constructed at such a huge cost, should have been fundamentally to safeguard the health of the British Troops quartered in the Station (both British and Indian) and incidentally, if not primarily, of the health of the Civil population also which was and still is found essential to cater to the needs of both the Military and the Civil side of the Government established by law.

Almost a generation has elapsed since the sewage channel was constructed. It is presumed that both the Civil and Military medical and health authorities, quite satisfied that the sewage channel was away from human habitation, at a time when Ulsoor, and even the Cantonment area proper could not boast of the Extensions to its right and to its left, nor had anticipated that such extensions would rise at a later time, sanctioned its construction. When as pointed out on another page Col. Macpherson, Col. Scott and Major Price very recently as 1933 had expressed their condemnation against the existence and retention of the Sewage Farm very near human habitation, it passes one's understanding and intelligence, whether their predecessors in office would ever have transgressed health and hygienic principles, casting them to the four winds and would ever have given their consent even for the sake of prestige and the notion of superiority complex for the retention of the Sewage Farm which today has become a menace and a central mosquito-breeding station

much to the detriment of not only the Military to the North and South of it, but also of the docile, law-abiding, God-fearing civil population to the West and those sick in-patients of the Isolation Hospital to the East, where they are combating with grim Death for saving their dear and precious sweet lives from the fell scourges like Tuberculosis, Cholera, Plague and the like.

It will not be out of place in this connection to offer our humble suggestion to the Health authorities of the Station and also the Health officer of the Municipal Commission to make an earnest search for the Thirty-year old plans and estimates that might lie hidden dust-laden in some of the neglected and forgotten archives of the Municipal Commission. Now a few of the interested Commissioners are understood to be shedding crocodile's tears in defence of the farm-owners who stand benefitted by this Sewage Farm at the expense of the health of the entire population of Cantonment and City proper and have clutched this problem as a handy tool even as the drowning man a piece of straw to contest the Municipal Elections as against the modest claims of the many other candidates of different persuasions who have grown grey in the service of the public,—which after all is a thankless job in these days of cries of Democracy in the air. The hectic manner in which the interested persons and groups of individuals are moving heaven and earth to undo and unsettle the settled problem that was decided thirty years ago and fortunately brought to life again by the wise and wary residents of Ulsoor and Joughpalayam, who

succeeded in getting an official resolution to close the Sewage Farm as far as Appireddipalya in the first instance passed unanimously without even one dissenting vote in April last, lends serious suspicion to thinking minds that all is not well with the methods adopted by the few interested Commissioners who now oppose the very closure which they with their eyes wide open voted for in the resolutions of April and May last. Either they should be irresponsible or that they have their axes to grind!

The farm is situated centrally very near human habitation and is causing a great deal of inconvenience. A walk on the Old Madas Road from the third mile stone to the Boundary stone very near the Isolation Hospital causes a stink in one's nostrils and one who goes out for a walk in the evenings for health, has only to breathe the foul air contaminated by the sewage odour. A few minutes' stop near the signboard of Devidas & Co's farm beyond the Muslim Cemetery and the vineyard will convince one as to what exactly we wish to convey. On one side there are the quarters of the Sappers and Miners, on the other side the Isolation Hospital, the third side the residents of Joughpalayam and on the fourth side the British Military Hospital etc. All these are affected by this sewage farm. Where then can the health of the town of Bangalore, much less the suburb of Ulsoor be guaranteed when this plague spot is allowed to remain for the sake of a few who own lands near the locality. One who takes a regular walk on the Old Madras Road breathes in more the poisoned and vitiated air than anything of pure

God-given air. The mosquitoes that are born of this infected place, this plague spot, not only deprive the poor half-starved people of what little blood that streams through their veins and arteries but sap their very vitality. The mosquitoes, like the C. I. D. Police on surveillance duty chase the political from place to place and hand him over to the other, chase people from the sewage farm to the Ulsoor lake, which by itself breeds a good number of fat mosquitoes, and from Ulsoor lake to Cantonment and from Cantonment to Tasker Town where they hand the people over to the mosquitoes that watch the locality near the water spread area by the Queen's Road. Such is the condition of this city of Bangalore which is widely broadcasted to be a health resort possessing a salubrious climate. Of-course it is no use gainsaying that it is a health resort for the few rich who have the means to protect themselves with mosquito curtains and such other modern devices and enjoy the salubrious climate. What of the poor thousands who drag on their miserable existence and die unwept, unhonoured and unsung? From the above it will be apparent that it is high time that the sewage farm is closed for irrigation irrespective of the personalities directly concerned in this affair and irrespective too of the very meagre return, taking into consideration the health and wellbeing of the residents which is the sole end and aim of a Civic Institution as that of our Municipal Commission.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

One can imagine the condition of the poor patients that seek their refuge in the Isolation Hospital. The

nearness of the sewage farm, the foul odour that emanates from it, and the army of Mosquitoes that invade the hospital and the havoc that they do on the poor patients who are struggling with life should carry conviction to the health authorities to have nothing to do with the sewage farm as it is situated to-day, but immediately close it thereby saving a few thousands of rupees which they spend on Anti-Malarial measures. How much should it be considered a havoc by the inmates of the sick people in the British Military Hospital and the poor residents of Joughpalayam who sleep more in the open without mosquito curtains or any such protection, could more be imagined than said in human language which is really impotent to bring out clearly what the human mind wishes to convey. The last straw on the camel's back is the action of the Congress Commissioners who announce that they have reversed the resolutions that were passed in the Commission last April and that only Block III will be closed. It may be a hundred or two of the labourers working on the farm might be affected by the closure of the Sewage irrigation, but think of the havoc that such a thing causes to the entire City of Bangalore C. & M. Station. Which is the lesser of the two evils should be taken into consideration when coming out to serve the public.

CONCLUSION.

It is our earnest prayer therefore that the Municipal Commission, without any further hesitation, put into effect their original resolution of closing the sewage irrigation as far as Appireddypalaya and not

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mince matters on any score or pretext. Let not any false cry or the election stunt of the Congress Commissioners or unfounded charges by the ignorant Congress platform-speakers cause any the slightest deviation from the original resolve. Let the sewage irrigation as far as Appireddypalaya be stopped *AT ONCE* and *NOW* is the sincere prayer of not only a few but of the entire population of Ulsoor Division.

V. Naid & Co. Bangalore.

S.N.13

37

Issued 24/11/39

DEPARTMENT.

BRANCH.

File No.

Serial No.

Draft Letter / Memorandum / Telegram

Class for telegrams	INLAND:	FOREIGN
	Immediate	Immediate
	Important	Important
	Express	Ordinary
	Ordinary	Without priority

R. Dis. No. F.64-39 Dated 24th Nov. 1939
G & A.

From

The Secretary to the Resident.

To

Major General E.F.Norton, C.M.G.,
D.S.O., M.C.,
General Officer Commanding,
Madras District, Bangalore.

To be issued on	Issued on
1st Reminder	
2nd Reminder	
3rd Reminder	
Heading:	
Case or Diary No.	
If post copy of telegram required	
Date of despatch of above	S.N.9 C.P.13
List of enclosures	

(Code word for telegrams.) S.N.6 (5) C.P.4.)

D.O

Dear General Norton,

Please refer to Pirouet's demi official letter No.25211/M, dated the 17th August 1939 and para 2 of my letter R.Dis.No.F.64-39/G & A., dated the 5th August 1939.

2. As complete stoppage of sewage irrigation in blocks I and II was likely to lead to congestion of sewage irrigation at the lower end in block III, the P.M.C. put forward a proposal that sewage should be stopped in bad cases in all three blocks which were found breeding mosquitoes heavily, the other cases being allowed to remain until a proper sewage disposal scheme ~~is~~ was in being. The Municipal Commission accepted this proposal at its meeting held on the 28th September 1939 in supersession of its resolution of May 1939 to stop sewage irrigation completely in

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in blocks I and II. The President, Municipal Commission has accordingly issued notices to stop sewage in bad cases in all the three blocks and these include cases near the British Military Hospital also. It is hoped that the mosquito nuisance will be very much reduced by the end of December.

3. The sewage disposal scheme is where it was before.

Yours ~~Sincerely~~,

Sd/ H. Trevelyan,

1211 Bg
20. 11.

Secy S.N.14 39

pmr 28/11/39

wrich OFA

P.964/39

No.D.3266-G/39.

The undermentioned paper is forwarded in original to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore for favour of disposal.

OFFICE OF THE
HON'BLE THE RESIDENT
IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
28 NOV. 1939
Diary No. 12,035
File No.

By order, etc.,

for Secretary to His Excellency the Crown Representative.

Political Department,
New Delhi.

The 22nd November 1939.

Letter from M. Hanumanthappa and others dated the 23rd October 1939, with enclosure.

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Press Note appearing in "The Daily Post" of the 21st November 1939.

SEWAGE IRRIGATION IN ULSOOR.

There has recently been some misinformed and misleading criticism regarding the sewage irrigation in Ulsoor. Hence it seems desirable that the public should know the facts and the Municipal Commission's policy in this matter. There were originally 4 blocks of land which were irrigated with sewage from the main channel:-

(1) From Kensington Road to Old Madras Road.

(2) From Old Madras Road to Binnamangala Kody Channel.

(3) From Kody Channel to Appareddipalya.

(4) From Appareddipalya to the Station limits.

2/ The first block was entirely closed to sewage irrigation in 1928. The Municipal Commission has now decided to close down sewage irrigation in the three remaining blocks but to do so gradually as any sudden closure before a sewage disposal scheme is in being would lead to congestion of sewage lower down the channel, with consequent danger to public health. Six weeks' notice has been issued to bad cases in all three blocks; some of these have already been closed down and the others will be closed down at the end of December, or earlier if the standing crops depending on this irrigation mature before then.

3/ The cases then remaining will be those to which no objection can be taken except on general grounds. For the reason already given these will be allowed to continue until satisfactory arrangements can be made for disposal of the sewage. Meanwhile, the necessary investigation and practical experiments are being made as urgently as possible with this end in view.

4/ It may be categorically stated that the Commission is in no way attached to sewage irrigation, and certainly not because of the revenue involved, which is negligible. The public may rest assured that this irrigation will be stopped completely as soon as it is possible to do so with safety to the health of the town.

'C o p y'.

DIW.
20/12/39.

Inserted by PNe

S.N 15

43

No.F.188-A/39.

From

The Secretary to His Excellency the
Crown Representative,

To

The Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner,
DELHI.

Filed.
D.B.
16/12/39.

Dated New Delhi, the 29th November 1939.

Bangalore sewage disposal scheme.

.....

Sir,

I am directed to state that the question of disposal of sewage in the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore (an area administered by the Crown Representative) and Bangalore City (part of the Mysore State) has been engaging the attention of the Municipalities concerned for some time past and recently a combined scheme has been adumbrated and is under the consideration of a joint committee. The cost of the scheme will be met by the two Municipalities. The Director of Public Health in Mysore, who is a member of this committee, is stated to be of the opinion that the "Chemical" process of disposal will be much cheaper than, but as effective as, the "activated sludge" or "Simplex" process. The figures that he has given for a joint scheme under the two methods are as follows:-

Simplex Method.		Chemical Method.	
	Rs.		Rs.
Initial expenditure:	8,10,000	Initial expenditure:	1,50,000
Recurring:		Recurring:	
Probable power charges:	34,000	Cost of chemicals about	40,000
Establishment and other charges:	7,000	Establishment:	2,500
	41,000	Depreciation:	7,500
Depreciation @ 5%	41,000	Interest @ 4%:	6,000
Interest @ 4%	33,000		
Total:	1,15,000	Total:	56,000

The Director of Public Health is conducting large scale experiments regarding the chemical process of disposal and his final report is

awaited. Meanwhile, the Resident in Mysore has asked that the opinion and advice of the Superintending Engineer, Health Services of the Government of India, on the relative merits of the two processes, may be obtained, so that the committee, when next it meets can have the benefit of his expert opinion in order to arrive at a decision and frame their recommendations without loss of time. I am, therefore, to request that, if you see no objection, the opinion of the Superintending Engineer, Health Services, in the matter may kindly be obtained and communicated to the Political Department as early as possible. Such further details as he may require in order to enable him to formulate his opinion will be supplied to him. It is understood that advice given by the officer on projects received from local bodies outside Delhi Province is charged for. I am, therefore, to request further that the amount of fees for advice in the present case may kindly be intimated.

2. Copies of letter from the Municipal Executive Engineer, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore to the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Services and the Chief Engineer's reply thereto are enclosed for information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- G.K.S. Sarma,

for Secretary to His Excellency the Crown Representative.

* Letter from Municipal Executive Engineer, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore No.U.S.156/1/37 dated the 7th July 1939 to the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Services.
Letter from the Chief Engineer Central Public Works Department No.A.& G/C, dated the 18th July 1939, to the Municipal Executive Engineer, Bangalore.

B 864/39 S.N. 11 28 3-12-39

Copy forwarded for information to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore with reference to his letter No.F.64-39/G.& A., dated the 21st September 1939.

OFFICE OF THE HON'BLE THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
12,033 Secy 4 DEC. 1939
Diary No. 12,233
File No.

By order, etc.,

for Secretary to His Excellency the Crown Representative.

Copy of a letter No.F.99/39-L.S.G.-P.H., dated the 8th January 1940, from the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, to the Secretary to His Excellency the Crown Representative.

Advice of the Superintending Engineer, Health Services, Delhi, in connection with the scheme for the disposal of sewage in the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore.

S.N.15
(S)

With reference to your letter No.F.188-A/39, dated the 29th November 1939, on the subject noted above, I have the honour to say that I have consulted Mr. Griffin and the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department. They are agreed that a local inspection will be necessary before any useful opinion can be given, and suggest that for this the requisitioning authorities should pay (i) Mr. Griffin's travelling allowance at the rates admissible to him for the journey from Delhi to Bangalore and back and (ii) a fee of Rs.500/-. I consider these terms to be reasonable.

2. If a scheme with estimates is prepared as the result of the local inspection it will have to be paid for on a percentage basis according to its magnitude.

S.N.20 18

B764/39

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OFFICE OF THE
HON'BLE THE RESIDENT
IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
Diary No. 1796
File No.

Ulsoor, Bangalore, Feb.6. 1940

The Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore,
Civil and Military Station,
Bangalore.

Resident.

Filed. 19/2/40

Honoured Sir,

A humble petition setting forth details of grievances of the general public of Bangalore, and particularly of Ulsoor, is submitted for your Honour's kind perusal and information and necessary and very early, if not immediate, action.

It might be stated in this connection with redoubled emphasis that the Sewage cultivation, and the invidious distinction towards the rich landlords as against the poor small landowners, is really causing demoralisation, enhancing the sufferings of the people. Malaria, emaciation in addition to amasculation is the net result. Disease coupled with unemployment and poverty ends in starvation, hunger and slow death.

It is earnestly hoped that the Hon'ble the British Residentin Mysore will give his immediate and sympathetic attention to this problem of problems.

Yours faithfully,

Bangalore, Feb. 7, 1940.

The President,
Municipal Commission,
C & M Station, Bangalore.

Sir,

UNREDRESSED GRIEVANCES

The Sewage irrigation that was promised to be closed has not been carried out. While the poor ryots are suffering, the rich landowner Devidoss goes unaffected. The notice for four months have expired and he is still allowed to irrigiate his lands with sewage water. Nobody to control him or question. The authorities, (the Secretary, Executive Engineer, and the Health Officer) are his friends, and are only too willing to render any help to Devidoss, as they stand to be benefitted by him in many ways. The Commissioners who helped him during the Elections by taking the affected parties to the President in deputation, are secretly helped and financed liberally by Devidoss, and they have promised him in return all possible help to Devidoss to become a Feudal Baron. What is obtained from these lands, and by reducing the original petty landowners who tilled the soil and were their own masters, xxx to slaves and his servants to die at his feet, is now being distributed to persons who help him in strengthening his position.

The lands came into his possession with a condition that the Binnamangalam Chatram opposite to the Dokad should be maintained and the poor homeless folks fed and sheltered. But the Chatram today is a big cow-shed breeding mosquitoes. The lands breed mosquitoes. Everywhere mosquito-breeding. Now is the season for mosquitoes. They have commenced head-hunting, injecting deadly poisons into the human system that inflict a slow death.

The British Military Hospital authorities, the residents of Ulsoor, the Medical authorities, have all protested against the sewage cultivation. Even a resolution was passed by the Commission, and with your courageous stand it was about to be carried out. But what has been the result. The sympathy you evinced when you came on public affairs is absent today. Somehow the subordinates have "tamed" you and have pocketed you. You are now led by their advices. If not, why should you allow Devidoss alone to have sewage irrigation? He is fortifying his position by retaining the Ulsoor Commissioner as his lawyer at a retaining fee to plead his cause. The other ryots too have engaged him on a fee of Rs. 75/- Other Congress Commissioner are moving heaven and earth to get Devidoss the undisturbed sway since they will be well benefitted as they are now. The Ulsoor Commissioner who was at first on a plot of land near the Binnamangalam Chatram, having a small garden of his own was ousted by the very same Devidoss, and now the very same Devidoss is being helped by the driven out Ulsoor Commissioner.

Even the patients in the Isolation Hospital who are removed from their houses and other hospitals only to die, are no free from mosquitoes. Perhaps to feed mosquitoes alone the Isolation hospital has been constructed there, and the landlord Devidoss has become the breeder of mosquitoes to kill men women and children who come to the Isolation Hospital to get back their lives. What a pity? Even a walk on the Old Madras Road near a culvert will show in good relief the foul smell of the sewage water, and how a passer-by is forced to close his nostrils and passe in that condition for some minutes say TEN. Who is to question all these. Devidoss has encroached on public roads, had his own plans for extending his fields for the lake cultivation, and no revenue officer seems to have check